

Wurtsboro, NY - Congressman Maurice Hinchey (D-NY) today announced that the Village of Wurtsboro has been awarded a \$1.5 million low-interest loan through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) to pay for a variety of upgrades to its water system. Hinchey voted in favor of the funding, which is being administered through the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Rural Development's Water and Environmental Program.

"These federal funds will help make much-needed improvements to the village's water infrastructure, which will save money, improve the quality of life for residents, and help retain and attract businesses," Hinchey said. "This low-interest loan demonstrates yet another way the economic recovery measure we passed in Congress is having a positive impact on communities throughout New York."

The Village of Wurtsboro intends to use the federal assistance to: rehabilitate its 300,000 gallon water storage tank; install 589 water meters; install fire hydrants in the Woodland estates area; replace non-operable valves; replace transmission pipes along Pine Street; replace all lead-based gooseneck connections in the system; and replace land line telemetry between well houses with radio telemetry.

Wurtsboro Mayor Mickey Maher said, "The village greatly appreciates this low-interest financing and thanks everyone who was involved in helping us to obtain it."

USDA Rural Development's Water and Environmental Program provides loans and grants to ensure that the necessary investments are made in water and wastewater infrastructure to deliver safe drinking water and protect the environment in rural areas.

Congressman Hinchey helped the House pass the ARRA earlier this year. President Obama signed the bill into law on Feb. 17, 2009. The measure is designed to jumpstart the nation's economy, create or save millions of jobs and put a down payment on addressing long-neglected challenges so our country can thrive in the 21st century. The law includes measures to modernize our nation's infrastructure, enhance energy independence, expand educational opportunities, preserve and improve affordable health care, provide tax relief, and protect those in greatest need.